

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A passenger protecting system, comprising:

a gas generator; and

a gas bag including an envelope portion and a filling channel with a narrow portion which extends along a predefined deployment direction, wherein the narrow portion has a length greater than a width, wherein the system is configured so that inflation gas from the gas generator directly enters the filling channel;

wherein at least part of the envelope portion is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel;

wherein the part of the envelope portion that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel is folded together in a middle of the part to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel.

29. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the filling channel is connected to the gas generator.

30. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein one end of the filling channel is adapted to be connected to the gas generator and the part of the envelope portion that is inserted into the narrow portion ~~turned back~~ is located immediately in front of a connection point of the gas generator.

31. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 30, wherein the filling channel forms a side pocket which is located laterally beside the connection point of the gas generator.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the part of the envelope portion that is inserted into the narrow portion ~~turned back~~ is at least partly zigzag-folded, pleated and/or rolled together.

34. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the part of the envelope portion that is inserted into the narrow portion ~~turned back~~ is zigzag-folded, pleated and/or rolled together at an end of the envelope facing away from the filling channel to form a zigzag-folded, pleated and/or rolled together envelope pack, wherein the envelope pack is folded together at least once to form the U-shaped pack.

35. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the gas bag has two or more gas bag chambers.

36. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 35, wherein the gas bag has at least one inner gas bag chamber that is surrounded by an outer gas bag chamber.

37. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the filling channel is formed laterally, at least partly, by a seam in the envelope of the gasbag.

38. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 35, wherein the filling channel is formed, at least partly, by side walls of associated gas bag chambers.

39. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the filling channel is formed, at least partly, by a diffuser layer fitted in the gas bag and/or by retaining straps.

40. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the filling channel is at least partly tubular.

41. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 40, wherein a cross section of the filling channel widens like a funnel at an open end of the filling channel.

42. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the gas bag is a pelvis-thorax gas bag that includes a pelvis region and a thorax region.

43. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 42, wherein the pelvis region of the gas bag is inserted ~~turned back~~ into the filling channel.

44. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 42, wherein the gas bag is accommodated in a backrest of a motor vehicle seat so that the predefined deployment

direction extends parallel to the backrest of the motor vehicle seat, in a direction of the vehicle seat area.

45. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the gas bag is a head-thorax gas bag that includes a head region and a thorax region.

46. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 45, wherein the head region of the gas bag is inserted ~~turned back~~ into the filling channel.

47. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 45, wherein the gas bag is accommodated in a backrest of a motor vehicle seat so that the predefined deployment direction extends parallel to the backrest of the motor vehicle seat, in a direction of the vehicle roof.

48. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the gas bag is a head-thorax-pelvis gas bag that includes a head region, a thorax region, and a pelvis region.

49. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 48, wherein the head region and/or the pelvis region of the gas bag is in each case inserted ~~turned back~~ into the ~~the~~ ^{[[a]]} filling channel.

50. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 49, wherein the gas bag is fitted in a backrest of a motor vehicle seat so that the predefined deployment direction of the filling channel for the head region extends parallel to the backrest of the motor vehicle seat, in a direction of the vehicle roof, and/or the predefined deployment direction of the filling channel for the pelvis region extends parallel to the backrest of the motor vehicle seat, in a direction of the vehicle seat area.

51. (Previously Presented) A method for folding a gas bag, comprising:

inserting at least a part of a gas bag envelope of the gas bag into an envelope section of the gas bag envelope; and

inserting the part of the gas bag envelope into a narrow portion of a filling channel, wherein the narrow portion has a length greater than a width;

wherein the filling channel is partly formed by the gas bag envelope;

wherein the filling channel extends along a predefined deployment direction;

wherein the part of the gas bag envelope that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel is folded together in a middle of the part to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 51, wherein the part of the gas bag envelope that is inserted into the narrow portion ~~turned back~~ is at least partly zigzag-folded, pleated and/or rolled together.

54. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 53, wherein the part that is inserted ~~turned back~~ is firstly zigzag-folded, pleated and/or rolled together at an end of the envelope facing away from the filling channel to form a zigzag-folded, pleated and/or rolled together envelope pack, wherein the envelope pack is folded together at least once to form the U-shaped pack.

55. (Previously Presented) A system for protecting passengers of a vehicle, comprising:

a gas generator; and

an air bag, including a folded section and a filling channel with a narrow portion, wherein the narrow portion has a length greater than a width;

wherein the filling channel is adjacent to the gas generator;

wherein the folded section is inserted in the narrow portion of the filling channel so that when inflation gas from the gas generator enter the filling channel, gas pressure builds up, expelling the folded section in a predetermined direction;

wherein the folded section that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel is folded together in a middle of the folded section to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel.